IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 3-11 and 14-25 in accordance with the following:

1. (Original) A β-glucan derivative having a β-glucan residue of three or more glucose residues and a non-reducing sugar residue chemically bound to the β-glucan residue.

2. (Original) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 1 having 3 to 1000 glucose residues.

3. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to ~~Claim 1 or 2~~ Claim 1 having 3 to 450 glucose residues.

4. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1 having 40 to 450 glucose residues.

5. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1having 3 to 39 glucose residues.

6. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~Claim 1 having 40 to 450 glucose residues, characterized in that the β-glucan derivative is used as an additive for pharmaceuticals and foods.

7. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 3 and 5~~ having 3 to 39 glucose residues, characterized in that the β-glucan derivative is used as an additive for pharmaceuticals and foods.

8. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the non-reducing sugar is a fructosyl group.

9. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 8~~, wherein a chemical bond between the β-glucan residue and the non-reducing sugar residue is an ether bond or an ester bond.

10. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~, wherein a chemical bond between the β-glucan residue and the non-reducing sugar residue is an ether bond.

11. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 1~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the β-glucan derivative is powder at ordinary temperature and pressure.

12. (Original) A β-glucan derivative having three or more glucose residues produced by chemically binding a non-reducing sugar to a reducing end.

13. (Original) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12 having 3 to 1000 glucose residues produced by chemically binding a non-reducing sugar to a reducing end.

14. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to ~~Claim 12 or 13~~Claim 12 having 3 to 450 glucose residues produced by chemically binding a non-reducing sugar to a reducing end.

15. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12~~any one of Claims 12 to 14~~ having 40 to 450 glucose residues produced by chemically binding a non-reducing sugar to a reducing end.

16. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12~~any one of Claims 12 to 15~~ having 3 to 39 glucose residues produced by chemically binding a non-reducing sugar to a reducing end.

17. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12 ~~any one of Claims 12 to 15~~ having 40 to 450 glucose residues produced by chemically binding a non-reducing sugar to a reducing end, characterized in that the β-glucan derivative is used as an additive for pharmaceuticals and foods.

18. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12~~any one of Claims 12 to 14 and 16~~ having 3 to 39 glucose residues produced by chemically binding a non-reducing sugar to a reducing end, characterized in that the β-glucan derivative is used as an additive for pharmaceuticals and foods.

19. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12~~any one of Claims 12 to 18~~, wherein the non-reducing sugar is a fructosyl group.

20. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12~~any one of Claims 12 to 19~~, wherein a chemical bond between the β-glucan residue and the non-reducing sugar residue is an ether bond or an ester bond.

21. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12~~any one of Claims 12 to 20~~, wherein a chemical bond between β-glucan residue and non-reducing sugar residue is an ether bond.

22. (Currently Amended) The β-glucan derivative according to Claim 12~~any one of Claims 12 to 21~~, wherein the β-glucan derivative is powder at ordinary temperature and pressure.

23. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical or food composition comprising the β-glucan derivative according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 22~~Claim 1 and at least one active ingredient.

24. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the β-glucan derivative according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 23~~Claim 1 comprising providing the β-glucan according to any one of Claims 1 to 23 and sucrose as substrates and allowing an enzyme to transglucosylate a fructosyl group in said sucrose to said β-glucan.

25. (Currently Amended) The process for producing the β-glucan derivative according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 24~~Claim 1, wherein the enzyme for use in the transglucosylation is β-fructofuranosidase.